



What's All the Buzz About Native Bees?

Fast Facts:

- There are about 3,600 known species of bees native to North America
 - Honey bees were introduced to North America in 1622 in Jamestown, Virginia
 - Honey bees are not as efficient as native bees
- 90% of native bees are solitary, nesting in cavities or the ground
- The adult lifespan of a bee is usually 2 – 6 weeks
- More than 50% of native bee species for which sufficient data is available are declining, and 24% for which sufficient data is available are in serious peril (Pollinators in Peril study, Center for Biological Diversity, 2017)
- Floral resources must be available during their adult lifetimes. Our gardens need bee supporting blooms that coincide with bee maturation



Bee-ing Pollen Specialists:

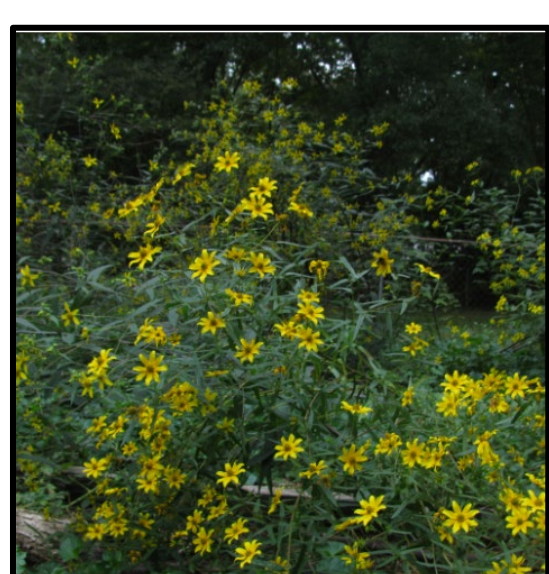
- ~25% of the ~770 species of bees native to the eastern US are pollen specialists with restricted pollen diets from one plant family, plant genera or plant species (Pollen specialist Bees of the Eastern United States by Jarrod Fowler and Sam Droege, 2020)
- Top native herbaceous plant genera to support pollen specialist bees:



Solidago (goldenrods)



Symphyotrichum (asters)



Helianthus (sunflowers)



Rudbeckia (black-eyed susan)

